

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to said patient a compound that antagonizes the CB1 receptor and inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 in an amount that is effective to treat obesity, said compound having an ion channel activity level greater than about 2 μ M.

2. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 1, wherein the ion channel is the Na, K or Ca ion channel.

3. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 2 wherein the compound has an ion channel activity level greater than about 2 μ M in the Na, K and Ca ion channels.

4. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment in accordance with claim 3 wherein the compound is a selective antagonist of the CB1 receptor and a selective inhibitor of the enzyme 11 β -HSD1.

5. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in accordance with claim 4 wherein the compound that antagonizes the CB1 receptor is at least about 10 fold selective for the CB1 receptor over the CB2 receptor.

6. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in accordance with claim 5 wherein the compound that antagonizes the CB1 receptor is from about 10 fold selective to about 1000 fold selective for the CB1 receptor over the CB2 receptor.

7. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in accordance with claim 4 wherein the compound that selectively inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 is at least about 10 fold selective for 11 β -HSD1 over the enzyme 11 β -HSD2.

8. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in accordance with claim 6 wherein the compound that inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 is from about

10 fold selective to about 1000 fold selective for the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 over the enzyme 11 β -HSD2.

9. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment or prevention, in accordance with claim 4 wherein the compound administered antagonizes the CB1 receptor at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less.

10. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 4 wherein the compound administered selectively inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less.

11. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 4 wherein the compound administered that antagonizes the CB1 receptor and inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 does not substantially antagonize the receptor CB2.

12. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 11 wherein the compound administered does not substantially inhibit the enzyme 11 β -HSD2.

13. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 11 wherein the compound administered has an IC50 against CB2 receptors of about 300 nM or higher.

14. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment in accordance with claim 12 wherein the compound administered has an IC50 against the enzyme 11 β -HSD2 of at least about 1 μ M.

15. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering to said patient a first compound that selectively antagonizes the CB1 receptor in combination with a second compound that selectively inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1, said compounds being administered in combination in an amount that is effective to treat obesity, said compounds having an ion channel activity level that is greater than about 2 μ M.

16. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 15, wherein said compounds have an ion channel activity level that is greater than about 2 μ M.

17. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 15, wherein the ion channel is the Na, K or Ca ion channel.

18. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 15 wherein the compounds have an ion channel activity level greater than about 2 μ M in the Na, K and Ca ion channels.

19. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 15 wherein the first compound administered antagonizes the CB1 receptor at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less.

20. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 15 wherein the second compound administered inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less.

21. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 19 wherein the first compound administered antagonizes the CB1 receptor at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less, and said first and second compounds do not substantially inhibit the CB2 receptor.

22. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 15 wherein the second compound administered inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less, and said first and second compounds do not substantially inhibit the enzyme 11 β -HSD2.

23. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 21 wherein the first compound antagonizes the CB1 receptor at an effective concentration of about 100 nM or less, and antagonizes the CB2 receptor at an IC50 of at least about 300 nM.

24. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 23, wherein the second compound administered inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 at an IC50 of about 100 nM or less, and inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD2 at a concentration of at least about 2 μ M.

25. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, comprising administering a compound that antagonizes CB1 receptors and antagonizes the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 in an amount effective to treat obesity, with the proviso that the compound is not SR141716A.

26. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 25, with the further proviso that the compound is not AM-251.

27. A method of treating obesity in a human patient in need of such treatment, in accordance with claim 26, with the further proviso that the compound is not AM-281.

28. A method of preventing obesity in a human patient in need of such prevention, comprising administering to said patient a compound that antagonizes the CB1 receptor and inhibits the enzyme 11 β -HSD1 in an amount that is effective to prevent obesity, said compound having an ion channel activity level greater than about 2 μ M.